

8. (amended) A locking apparatus for a gooseneck trailer hitch having a retainer bracket defining a slot in which an extension of a hitch ball engagement plate is slidably disposed, the locking apparatus comprising:

a hasp bar insertable into said slot of the retainer bracket adjacent said extension of said hitch ball engagement plate such that said plate is substantially immobilized within said slot; and

means for releasably locking said hasp bar in said slot of said retainer bracket so as to alternately prevent and permit movement of said hitch ball engagement plate within said slot.

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[Please amend Claim 9 as follows:]

9. (amended) The locking apparatus of claim 8 wherein said gooseneck trailer hitch further comprises a movable latch handle adjacent said retainer bracket and said hasp bar engages said latch handle upon insertion into said slot of said retainer bracket so as to alternately prevent and permit movement of said latch handle.

Please add new Claim 17 as follows:

17. The locking apparatus of claim 8 wherein said means for releasably locking said hasp bar comprises a key operated locking mechanism fixable on a first end of said hasp bar.

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[Please add new Claim 18 as follows:]

18. The locking apparatus of Claim 8 wherein said means for releasably locking said hasp bar comprises a code operated combination locking mechanism fixable on a first end of said hasp bar.

Please add new Claim 19 as follows:

19. The locking apparatus of claim 9 wherein said hasp bar comprises a "U" shaped bar and said means for releasably locking said hasp bar comprises a key operated locking mechanism fixable on first and second ends of said hasp bar, wherein said latch handle is engaged by said hasp bar by being positioned within said "U" shaped bar prior to fixing said locking mechanism thereon.
